

Appl. No. 10/665,105
Amdt. Dated 03/08/2006
Reply to Office action of November 8, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Further according to another embodiment of the invention, a second poisoning agent which is a reversible oxidation-reduction indicator can be mixed into the liquid mixture. The second poisoning agent is selected from the group consisting essentially of methylene blue, toluidine blue, azure I, and [[gallocyanine]] gallocyanide.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In addition to the coupled poisoning agents, the poisoning agent of the present invention will preferably further include a second poisoning agent, which is itself a reversible oxidation-reduction indicator. It has been found that methylene blue acts to stabilize the oxidation-reduction potential of the growth medium. Other suitable second poisoning agents include toluidine blue, azure I, and [[gallocyanine]] gallocyanide.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to **Figure 5**, there are two sets of examples from two different herds, each of 100 animals. Using the prior art, typical pressure analysis of a mixture of a culture broth and reagents and a sample from each animal, the percentage of false positives for the first herd was 27.14% and for the second herd was 6.33%, where there was actually no organism. The samples that were mixed with the culture broth and reagents and placed into the bottle were processed fecal samples that may contain "mycobacterium paratuberculosis." Using the pressure analysis of a mixture of a culture broth and reagents and two poisoning agents, in accordance with the present invention, and a sample from each animal, the percentage of false positives for the first herd was

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reduced to 5.71%, and for the second herd was reduced to 0.00%, where there actually was no organism.